

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 31 to page 2, line 4 as shown below.

AI ~~--In concatenative synthesis using a speech corpus, speech waveforms to be composed~~
are obtained by means of extracting sample speech waveform data from the prepared speech
corpus and concatenating them. The speech database (speech corpus) stores a large number of
speech waveforms of natural speech utterances and their corresponding phonetic ~~information~~
information.--